



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

March 8, 2000

S. 1629
Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on February 10, 2000*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1629 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the bill creates new direct spending authority, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates there would be no significant spending as a result of enacting this bill. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1629 provides that upon the request of Clearwater Land Exchange–Oregon (an Oregon partnership), the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall exchange certain federal lands in the state of Oregon for certain private lands in the state. Specifically, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey about 50,320 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in exchange for about 44,150 acres of private land. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey 3,901 acres of federal land within the Malheur National Forest in exchange for about 5,700 acres of private land within the Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman, and Umatilla National Forests. Based on information from the two agencies, the exchanges could affect grazing allotments, but we estimate that any impact on grazing receipts would be trivial.

S. 1629 would give the Secretaries the authority to retain any cash equalization payments received in these exchanges and to spend them, without further appropriation, to purchase other land in Oregon. The Secretaries do not have such authority under current law. Therefore, enacting S. 1629 could result in new direct spending if the private parties in these exchanges make cash equalization payments to the federal government to complete the transactions. According to BLM and the Forest Service, the land exchanges are intended to be of equal value and no cash equalization payments are planned. Based on that information, we estimate that there would be no significant direct spending under the bill.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Victoria Heid Hall (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state, local, and tribal impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.